

For Immediate Release

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HERSETH SANDLIN ANNOUNCES MORE THAN \$9M IN RECOVERY ACT FUNDING FOR SMART GRID TECHNOLOGY IN SOUTH DAKOTA

Washington, DC {October 27, 2009}- Today, Rep. Stephanie Herseth Sandlin announced that two utility companies in South Dakota are the recipients of \$9,608,970 in smart grid technology development grant funding as part of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act's (ARRA) \$3.4 billion investment in Smart Grid technology.

Of this total amount of funding, Black Hills Power Inc. in Rapid City will receive \$5,592,602 to install 69,000 smart meters, along with the communications infrastructure, IT software, and equipment necessary to operate a fully functional Smart Grid system in its service area.

Sioux Valley Southwestern Electric Cooperative, Inc. in Colman will receive \$4,016,368 to install a smart grid network across the full customer base - 23,000 smart meters - that will allow for automated electricity readings and additional monitoring of the system in case of outages or disruptions.

"Modernizing electrical grid infrastructure will improve energy efficiency, and should lower utility bills for South Dakota consumers," Rep. Herseth Sandlin said. "In addition, Smart Grid technology enhances South Dakota's ability to participate in and benefit from a new energy economy by promoting the integration of renewable sources of electricity, like wind, with the electrical grid."

The \$3.4 billion ARRA investment will be matched by industry funding for a total public-private investment worth over \$8 billion. This is the largest single Smart Grid modernization investment in U.S. history, funding a broad range of projects that will ease the nation's transition to a smarter, stronger, and more efficient and reliable electric system.

The Department of Energy's Smart Grid Investment Grant Program provides grants ranging from \$500,000 to \$20 million for smart grid technology deployments. It also provides grants of \$100,000 to \$5 million for the deployment of grid monitoring devices.

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